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Lee W. Lenz
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

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A NEW SPECIES OF DICHELOSTEMMA (LILIACEAE)
FROM CALIFORNIA

LEE W. LENZ
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden
Claremont, California 91711

During the course of a taxonomic study of the Brodiaea complex a previously undetected species of Dichelostemma was discovered associated with vernal pools in Amador, Merced and Sacramento counties.

Dichelostemma lacuna-vernalis sp. nov. Fig. 1

Perennial herb from a corm; corms ca. 1 cm in diam., not deeply seated, bearing offsets; scape usually less than 2 dm tall, slender, smooth, up to 6 arising from a single corm; leaves subulate, thin, flat to concave, not keeled, no vein impressions, 2 dm long and 1.5 cm broad at base, 2 or more produced by each corm; leaves at margins ciliated; bracts about 6 mm wide, 7 mm long, ovatae, acuminate, usually purple; inflorescence with 1-3 flowers; pedicels up to 3 mm long; perianth lavender; tube campanulate, ca. 3 mm long; segments of the perianth spreading, not rotate, ca. 1 cm long, 7 mm wide; stamens 6; filaments of the stamens opposite to the outer segments of the perianth ca. 2 mm long, having anthers ca. 2 mm long; filaments of the stamens opposite to the inner segments of the perianth ca. 1 mm long, having anthers ca. 3.5 mm long; appendages of the short staminal tube ca. 1 mm wide, 5 mm long.

Holotype.—California: Sacramento Co. End of Walnut St., Orangevale. Grassy meadow area with vernal pools, 12 April, 1967, L. W. Lenz 24671A.
Fig. 1. *Dichelostemma lacuna-vernalis*.

Other collections.—California: Amador Co. Grassy vernal pool area ca. 5 mi from Ione-Jackson junction, hwy 140 near Mariposa Co. line, el. 350 ft, 12 May, 1967, L. W. Lenz 24710; Sacramento Co. Bald spot 0.5 mi S Phoenix airport, 12 May, 1965, L. W. Lenz 24617.
Etymology.—lacuna, Latin, a place where water collects, a pool or pond; vernalis, Latin, of, or belonging to spring, hence vernal pool.

This little vernal pool species is very distinct and may be distinguished from Dichelostemma pulchellum (Salisb.) Heller in the following ways: (1) leaves broad at the base, flat to concave, thin and with no evidence of a keel or nerve impressions; (2) by the 1–3-flowered inflorescences; (3) the short scapes and the fact that there may be as many as six arising from a single corm; and (4) by the very small bracts. I believe that this species is hybridizing with D. pulchellum, and intermediates between the two species are common. The two species occupy different habitats but may be found growing within a few hundred feet of one another, and the intermediates are usually found in more or less intermediate habitats. Under uniform cultural conditions, D. lacuna-vernalis blooms earlier than D. pulchellum and forms believed to be intermediates are intermediate in blooming dates.

I wish to express my appreciation to Les Hannibal of Fair Oaks who first called my attention to these pools and suggested that I might find them of interest.